

Application No. 09/576,056
Amendment dated February 18, 2005
Response to Office Action of November 18, 2004

Atty. Docket No. 30019.100USU1 (42390.P7751)
Examiner Pathak, Sudhanshu C.
TC/A.U. 2634

Remarks

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the present U.S. Patent application as amended herein. Claims 1-40 have been canceled herein. Claims 41-44 were previously canceled. Claims 57-69 have been added. Thus, claims 45-69 are pending.

CLAIM REJECTIONS - 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) - Claims 1 and 10

Claims 1 and 10 were rejected as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,093,841 issued to Vancraeynest (hereinafter "*Vancraeynest*") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,111,910 issued to Cui, et al. (hereinafter "*Cui*"). Claims 1 and 10 have been canceled. Therefore, the rejection of claims 1 and 10 is moot.

CLAIM REJECTIONS - 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) - Claims 2-4, 6, 8, 11, 13, 15, 19, 23, 25, 27, 29, 33, 35, 37, 38, 40, 46, 47, 53

Claims 2-4, 6, 8, 11, 13, 15, 19, 23, 25, 27, 29, 33, 35, 37, 38, 40, 46, 47, 53 and 54 were rejected as being unpatentable over *Vancraeynest* in view of *Cui* in further view of U.S. Patent No. 5,373,140 issued to Bustamante, et al. (hereinafter "*Bustamante*"). Claims 2-4, 6, 8, 11, 13, 15, 19, 23, 25, 27, 29, 33, 35, 37, 38 and 40 have been canceled. Therefore, the rejection of claims 2-4, 6, 8, 11, 13, 15, 19, 23, 25, 27, 29, 33, 35, 37, 38 and 40 is moot. Claims 46, 47, 53 and 54 depend from a claim having allowable subject matter. Therefore, claims 46, 47 53 and 54 are in condition for allowance.

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CLAIM REJECTIONS - 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) - Claims 5, 7, 9, 12, 14, 16-18, 20-22, 24, 26, 28, 30-32, 34, 36, 39, 48, 50 and 52

Claims 5, 7, 9, 12, 14, 16-18, 20-22, 24, 26, 28, 30-32, 34, 36, 39, 48, 50 and 52 were rejected as being unpatentable over *Vancraeynest* in view of *Cui* and *Bustamante* in further view of U.S. Patent No. 5,768,306 issued to Sawahashi, et al. (hereinafter "*Sawahashi*"). Claims 5, 7, 9, 12, 14, 16-18, 20-22, 24, 26, 28, 30-32, 34, 36 and 39 have been canceled. Therefore, the rejection of claims 5, 7, 9, 12, 14, 16-18, 20-22, 24, 26, 28, 30-32, 34, 36 and 39 is moot. Claims 48, 50 and 52 depend from a claim having allowable subject matter. Therefore, claims 48, 50 and 52 are in condition for allowance.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

Claims 45, 49 and 51 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and intervening claims. Claims 45 and 49 have been rewritten in independent form including the limitations of the base claim (41) and any intervening claims. Claim 51 depends from claim 49. Applicants submit that claims 45 and 49 as amended and claim 51 are in condition for allowance. Claims 55 and 56 were allowed over the prior art of record.

NEW CLAIMS

Newly added claims 57-69 depend from claims 55 and 56, which have been allowed. Because dependent claims include the limitations of the claims from which they depend, Applicants submit that new claims 57-69 are in condition for allowance.

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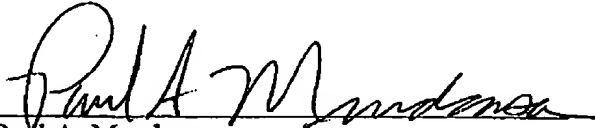
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CONCLUSION


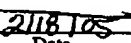
For at least the foregoing reasons, Applicants submit that the rejections have been overcome. Therefore, claims 45-69 are in condition for allowance and such action is earnestly solicited. The Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned by telephone if such contact would further the examination of the present application. Please charge any shortages and credit any overcharges to our Deposit Account number 02-2666.

Respectfully submitted,
BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR & ZAFMAN, LLP

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Paul A. Mendonsa
Attorney for Applicant
Reg. No. 42,879

12400 Wilshire Boulevard
Seventh Floor
Los Angeles, CA 90025-1026
(503) 439-8778

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